

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 00236 141738Z

43

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 XMB-02 OPIC-03 AF-06 ARA-06

EA-07 NEA-10 /139 W

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ACTION STR

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MTN

SUBJECT: MTN: SUBGROUP GRAINS JAN 22-30 MEETING

REF: A. 75 MTN GENEVA 9460, B. 75 MTN GENEVA 8109

1. ACCORDING TO THE GATT AIRGRAM REPORTED IN REF A, THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS (MTN/GR/W/1-7) ARE TO CONTINUE AT THE JANUARY 22-30 GRAINS SUBGROUP MEETING. FOLLOWING THIS DISCUSSION, THE GROUP IS TO UNDERTAKE AN EXAMINATION OF THE DOCUMENTATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GRAINS (MTN/GR/W/8).

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PAGE 02 MTN GE 00236 141738Z

2. WE EXPECTED ORIGINALLY THAT MOST OF THE FORTHCOMING

MEETING WOULD BE DEVOTED TO AN EXIMINATION OF TRADE MEASURES ON MTN/GR/W/8; AND THAT ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE MEETING WOULD BE DEVOTED TO THE VARIOUS POLICY PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOW LEARNED THAT THE GATT SECRETARIAT WISHES AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING TO GIVE MUCH MORE EMPHASIS AND TIME TO A CONSIDERATION OF THE POLICY PROPOSALS THAN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THE SECRETARIAT'S FEELING THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE MTN IN AGRICULTURE THE SUBGROUP GRAINS MUST MAINTAIN A HIGH DEGREE OF ACTIVITY.

3. THE SECRETARIAT'S REASONING WAS PROBABLY ALSO INFLUENCED BY THE EC WHICH WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GENEVA GRAINS NEGOTIATIONS IN CONTRAST TO THOSE IN LONDON. AT ANY RATE, EITHER THE EC OR THE SECRETARIAT APPARENTLY SUGGESTED TO THE CANADIANS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE DISCUSSION ON PROPOSALS FOR GRAINS AGREEMENTS SO AS TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT PROPOSALS FOR SUCH AGREEMENTS ARE EXCLUSIVELY OR PRIMARILY OF INTEREST TO THE EC.

4. CANADIANS TOLD US THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE THE LEAD IN DISCUSSING A GRAIN COMMODITY ARRANGEMENT BUT THAT THEY WILL VIEW WITH SYMPATHY THE IDEAS DEVELOPED BY THE EC. WE ANTICIPATE THAT MOST OF THE OTHER DELEGATIONS WILL ALSO WISH TO DWELL AT LENGTH ON IDEAS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENTS.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE EC COMMISSION IS WORKING ON A REFINEMENT OF ITS ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY ARRANGEMENT FOR GRAINS. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE EC SOURCES, THE REVISED EC PROPOSAL IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE EC COUNCIL WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH IN ORDER TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE EC MTN NEGOTIATING MANDATE. WE EXPECT THAT AT THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE GRAINS SUBGROUP, THE EC WILL DRAW ON ITS PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROPOSAL, IN PARTICULAR IN ITS REPLY TO THE QUESTIONS BY U.S. DEL IN LAST MEETING (SEE REF B).
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PAGE 03 MTN GE 00236 141738Z

6. IN VIEW OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THERE IS THE RISK THAT THE WORK OF THE GRAINS SUBGROUP WILL INCREASINGLY FOCUS ON COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AND NEGLECT LIBERALIZATION UNLESS WE PUSH VIGOROUSLY U.S. PROPOSAL FOR NOTIFICATION OF NEGOTIATING INTERESTS IN GRAINS (MTN/GR/W/4/ADD.1).

7. IT WILL BE RECALLED (REF B) THAT THIS PROPOSAL RECEIVED A LUKEWARM RECEPTION FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PROPOSAL COULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE SUBGROUP AS PRAGMATIC WAY OF PROCEEDING. HOWEVER, SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION WILL REQUIRE THE U.S. BE WILLING IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT MONTHS TO NOTIFY OTHER COUNTRIES IN SPECIFIC TERMS OF ITS GRAIN NEGOTIATING INTERESTS; AND THAT THE U.S. BE ABLE TO INDICATE THE TIME IT WILL DO SO.

8. SUCH NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE IN SUBGROUP GRAINS WOULD MORE OR LESS PARALLEL THAT ACCEPTED BY GROUP AGRICULTURE FOR QUOTE OTHER PRODUCTS UNQUOTE, AND THIS FACTOR COULD HELP GAIN SUPPORT FOR NOTIFICATION OF GRAIN NEGOTIATING INTERESTS IF WASHINGTON WISHES TO PURSUE THIS PROPOSAL. CULBERT

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